

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
F7669R

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★



VOLUME 6

Atlanta, Georgia - February 1940

NUMBER 2

FIRES IN 1939

With snow on the ground on most of the forests of the Region, there is now a little time for reflection over things done and not done. Let those of us then who have the responsibility for protecting the National Forests from fire look over last year's fire record. First glance will show that it is poorer than that of the year before. Are we going backwards?

Let's look at some of the details of the last 1939 ten-day report. First, there is the Ouachita--that forest which had always been a hard nut to crack on this fire business. In the old days they used to burn 20 to 30 thousand acres a year. But look at the difference. Now in 1939 it topped the list with smallest percent of area burned (only .06%). And to make things better for Arkansas, the Ozark is a close second with .1%. So Arkansas carries off the honors in fire. Both forests have fine records of which they may be really proud, even though they are not quite as good as 1938. But then 1939 was a worse year. In number of fires the Ouachita shows a small reduction, while the Ozark remained stationary.

The Chattahoochee which was first last year didn't do so well either in number of fires or in area burned, but then it had the new Armuchee and Cornelia Divisions with which to contend. The Nantahala, despite a record worse than 1938, came in third with .11% burned. The most pleasant surprise was Alabama. Although its record should become better, it

shows a steady decrease in number of fires and areas burned. It is well within its quota and burned only .3%. The Kisatchie and Mississippi, although they both show a lot too much area burned, are at least better than 1938, but Texas and Florida have gone up considerably.

For the region as a whole, only four forests--Alabama, Nantahala, Ouachita and Ozark (omitting the small Uharie)--made their quotas, and, of course, the Region as a whole is way behind. Both area and number of fires have gone up.

The record is not good; in fact, far from what I should like to see. It's up to you Supervisors and Rangers to see if 1940 will not show a better story. Now is the time for careful analysis to see if something profitably cannot be deduced from the figures. Now also is the time to plan carefully for a better 1940 fire history. May I suggest your serious consideration.

-- JOSEPH C. KIRCHER

- - -

FOREST FARMING

The possibility of farmers augmenting their income by harvesting the products of their woodlands has long been proposed and practiced in varying degrees by the more progressive. The rapid rate of growth and good markets which exist in many parts of the southern pine region make the forest one of the farmers best and surest crops. What may be done with this crop is exceptionally well illustrated by a dirt farmer whose holdings adjoin the boundary of the Osceola National Forest in Florida. This farmer, whom we will call Mr. "A", lives seven miles from Lake City, Florida, and one and one-half miles from a paved road. He owns 143 acres of land, 60 of which he cultivates. The remaining 83 acres are timber land, very well stocked with slash pine timber about 35 years of age.

About three years ago Mr. "A" started planting slash pine seedlings on his cultivated land. He secured these from the State Nursery at Olustee, Florida, and used a 15' x 15' spacing in setting them out. Between these rows of trees he is growing his farm crops of corn, sorgum cane, beans, field peas, sweet potatoes, etc. He has planted 30 of the 60 acres of tillable land in this manner.

In 1937 Mr. "A" placed 1,700 turpentine faces on trees on his own land. These he worked himself and sold the raw gum to a central distillation plant in Jacksonville, Florida. Late in 1938 Mr. "A" was persuaded by Forest Officers to abandon his cash crop of tobacco for one year and replace it with 2,000 additional naval stores trees which he would lease on the Osceola National Forest. This gave him a total of 3,700 turpentine trees which he worked through the 1939 season selling his raw product in Jacksonville, 60 miles away, and hauling it to market himself on his small pick-up truck. In addition to this, he bought 30 cords of pine fuel wood from the National Forest and cut about 10 cords on his own land. This he cut in his spare time into 18-inch lengths for sale in Lake City.

Forest Officers assisted Mr. "A" in keeping records of his operation, and his financial condition at the end of 1939 was a matter of satisfaction to all concerned. During the year he produced an average of 24 barrels of crude gum per 1,000 trees. For this he received approximately \$750.00 after deducting the cost of transportation to market. From the sale of his fuel wood, he received an average of \$11.10 per cord, selling it in small loads of about 1/4 cord to people in Lake City. His income from this source was \$445.00. Total income from forest crops was \$1,195.00.

The following cash outlays were necessary:

Materials for naval stores work	...	\$165.00
Leases for naval stores timber	...	75.00
Fuel wood sales	...	30.00
Hired labor	...	260.00
Hauling costs for fuel wood	...	<u>20.00</u>
Total	...	\$550.00

Mr. "A" spent 180 days of his year's work in harvesting his forest crops. He, therefore, received better than \$3.50 per day for this effort. In addition, he has produced enough food stuff on his cultivated land to supply his table, including meat, vegetables, eggs, etc., and has sold additional items which have more than offset costs of clothing, staples and necessary maintenance expense. He has six children, three of whom are in school. A high school education is planned for all of these children.

It is Mr. "A's" plan to develop his timber land to a point where it will be his cash crop, in other words, to farm his forest. His position this year is extremely favorable as compared with his neighbors, who lost heavily by relying on tobacco for their cash crop.

Mr. "A" is the average farmer, blessed with more than average ambition, but who has demonstrated that forest lands will produce a good living if ordinary industry is used. Certainly a more steady income is enjoyed by Mr. "A" than his neighbors can expect.

-- Paul A. Swarthout, District Ranger,
Osceola

- - -

CONSIDER THE POOR TRESPASSER
(In One of Eight Easy ? Lessons)

Everyone should be entitled to leave himself open once in awhile, but the statement "Supply any necessary data not given in question" under Question 12 of the Trespass Manual Study Course left the absent-minded professor extra wide open.

First place in the race of names went to the Pisgah's Bottorf with "Trespasser John Reliefer Jones of Gratuity, Mo.; Son, Exe Ray; Forest Guard, Will Punchem; and Ranger, Y. Hease Toogood." Second was Mississippi's Sentell with "Character Witnesses, Mr. Honest John Truthfull and Mr. Abraham Moses Christian." In the money was South Carolina's Giddings with "Son, Infra (Red) Ray" and runner-up Millar of the Ouachita came through with a guard named "Ijust Plugalong."

A summation of the record and character of old John Jones indicates that a sentence of "hanged by the neck until dead" followed by life imprisonment for the corpse would see justice only half done. Nobody, however, pushed their investigation far enough to identify his first cousin except Paul Swarthout. We know him now, of course, but we're not telling.

Note to trainee who thinks all of the red scratching was on his paper: In correcting a stack about a foot high (Trespass) three sticks of red scripto lead were used. Laid end to end, they would be a half inch longer than the Dixie Ranger. (Editor's Note: Evidently the "professor" also is either a civil engineer or a dry goods salesman.)

Quite a number of the 165 individuals who have completed both lessons in timber management called attention to errors in the questions. Among the correctors, Martin L. Syverson stands alone. He was the only one who told us that Buck Stribling couldn't have given Acting Ranger F (lesson 2, question 8) a money order for \$105.00, because the Post Office wouldn't write one for over \$100.00. A man over at the Atlanta Post Office said he was right. Let us know how you got up over \$100.00 to send off in one piece, Sy, and we'll give it a front page spread.

Word comes that here and there a busy student is under the impression that his rating on the study courses will influence his personnel record. The purpose of the courses is entirely one of assistance in manual study rather than of examination in manual knowledge. As in most things, an individual's return will probably be in proportion to his efforts. Papers are graded as satisfactory or unsatisfactory and that is the only record kept. The Ozark personnel, with only one paper still due, leads the field for promptness in submitting papers on the first three lessons.

-- "Prof." Morriss, "B.S., Ph.D., R.F.D."

- - -

D.A. ACTION PROGRAMS IN LAND USE

Secretary Wallace in a memorandum of January 10, Special Information Series No. 6, to chiefs of bureaus and offices discusses the "specific changes being made in Department programs to help farmers achieve conservation of soil, water, grass, trees and human resources."

In outlining the following changes that take effect in 1940 in the action programs of the various agencies in an effort to give land owners and users more effective assistance in their conservation efforts, the Secretary says in part: "In this drive of citizens for increased conservation of agricultural resources, we in the Department can serve in a necessary and important way to help farmers check the losses of agricultural resources and help to assure that the forces of reconstruction will at least keep pace with the forces of destruction.

- "1. The Soil Conservation Service will continue to expand its services to individual farmers through technical guidance by working closely with supervisors of soil conservation districts and with AAA committeemen, and Farm Security Administration supervisors who help individual farmers draw up management plans for their farms. Having for the most part passed through the initial stage of developing demonstration projects, the Soil Conservation Service is now realigning its work so as to render assistance to a still larger number of farmers. The Service is lending graders, tractors, terracers, and other implements, and helping to supply needed materials to farmers in locally organized soil conservation districts.
- "2. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration in the 1940 program will encourage desirable practices not in general use. To do this within the limits of available funds it is necessary to reduce the amount of payment which may be earned for common conservation practices such as

seedings of grasses and legumes in order to make money available for practices not normally used. Farmers on small farms will now be able to earn a minimum conservation payment of 20 dollars and any farmer in addition to his other practices can earn 30 dollars by planting forest trees. Because of the need for increased use of cover crops in the Southeast, provision has been made for increased production of legume seeds in the Northwest for distribution in the Southeast. AAA committeemen will require stricter performance to qualify for credit for soil-building practices.

"3. Farm Security Administration supervisors, in working out management plans with borrowers, will give special attention to needed soil conservation practices and crop diversification. No loan will be made for one-crop farming. Increased effort will be made to help borrowers obtain better and longer term written leases which will increase security and provide greater incentive to conserve soil resources. Increased effort will be made to help farmers enlarge their units sufficiently for profitable production, especially in areas where grass crops should be increased on land not suited to continued cultivation. Greater effort to conserve human resources will be made through educational, health, and sanitation programs.

"4. The Forest Service, through its forest supervisors, will utilize the help of the Farm Security Administration and the Soil Conservation Service in improving conditions for families on national forest lands. Thus the conservation of human resources becomes a part of the regular and expanding efforts on National Forest lands.

"5. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has undertaken the task of national leadership in the development of a cooperative land-use planning program which combines the benefits of the experience of farmers with the special information of the land-grant colleges, experiment stations, and the Department.

"6. The Extension Service has undertaken the task of helping to coordinate the efforts of the Department and the land-grant colleges, experiment stations, county agents, and farmers in order to develop coordinated plans locally and for the Nation."

- - -

"WE HAVE WITH US TODAY ..."

Early in February three fiscal inspectors from the Washington office descended on Atlanta for the annual check-up on the regional fiscal agent's office. Albert H. Cousins, regional fiscal agent of R-6, recently on detail to the Washington office, is acting as chief of party, the other two members of the trio being Lee C. Pratt of the Washington division of fiscal control and William W. Crawford of the Washington CCC fiscal office.

Mr. Cousins is no stranger to many R-8 members. He entered the Service in Washington in July, 1907, and transferred to R-6 as fiscal agent in 1908 at the same time that Mr. Stabler went to that region as supervisor of the Columbia. Mr. Cousins' first official payment as fiscal agent involved a check dated December 12, 1908, drawn to the Independent Order of Oddfellows for \$12.00 for rent of supervisor's headquarters at Heppner, Oregon. He since has drawn checks for well over \$100,000 with less trepidation.

At the time of his first assignment to R-6, the region had three appropriations--GE, Improvement and Statutory Roll--and a total annual allocation of \$650,000, the sum now frequently exceeded by a single national forest.

Mr. Cousins is accompanied by his wife, and after the R-8 audit, they will make a leisurely automobile vacation trip through the South and West, returning to Portland about April 1. We trust that Mr. Cousins will have opportunity to try out his golf on Atlanta's excellent courses and add to the stamp collection, which we hear is a hobby of his.

Mr. Pratt is also an old R-6 man, having entered the Service as forest clerk on the Malheur forest in January 1913. In October 1918 he transferred to the Chugach Forest in Alaska as executive assistant, later as assistant supervisor, then to Juneau as deputy fiscal agent. In 1934 with the great CCC and relief expansion, he was transferred to New England as CCC fiscal agent, later to R-7 as deputy fiscal agent, then returned to Alaska as fiscal agent, where he remained until December 1937, when he was transferred to the Washington office. His travels have taken him to the farthest north (Chugach) and the farthest south (Caribbean) National Forests.

Since coming to R-8 he has been bitten by the bug of archery (through the influence of Dick Barbour of I & E). He can already mention with the proper casualness such items of archery tackle as "nocks", "ends" and the like. We suspect that archery will soon become a hobby with Mr. Pratt, but will not supplant his interest in archaeology among the Indian and Eskimo ruins of the North. (He admits that he hasn't located any likely looking sites along the Potomac.) Mr. Pratt is quite enthusiastic over his lucky find in an old bookstore in Atlanta--a copy of "The Eskimo About Bering Strait," by E. W. Nelson, for many years Chief of the Biological Survey. The book has long been out of print and the discovery of this copy marks the end of a ten-year search for it by Mr. Pratt.

Mr. Crawford, the youngest of the trio, entered the Service (CCC organization) in Washington in 1933, served for a time in the fiscal office at Amherst, Mass., with Pratt; later transferred to Washington in the CCC fiscal office via R-7. He hails originally from Missoula, Montana, and his hobbies are fishing and hunting.

Cousins and Pratt, both old-timers from a western region, have expressed amazement at the great variety of problems which seem to be peculiar to Region 8--turpentine sales, game management on overstocked areas, utilization of timber products that would be waste material in the big logging operations of the West, high stumpage prices, problems peculiar to the tropical forests of Puerto Rico, and so on.

- - -

MORE GHOSTS FOR MONA ISLAND

The ghosts of Mona Island have six new recruits and the Fishing Lodge has a new trophy for the wall. The trophy is a ring buoy with the words "ENGRACIA," "Aruba" painted on it in bright red letters.

On November 30 about 4 a.m. a man was washed up on the beach near Cabana No. 5. After a waterglass of rum, he related the following story to Captain Arturo Munoz MacCormick:

The "Engracia", a 150-ton schooner from Aruba, was demasted in a storm and was at the mercy of the wind, waves and current about four hours after she had left Puerto de Plata for Aruba. At 7 p.m. off the north coast of Mona, a large wave struck the poop deck of the "Engracia" and the prow went under, the rest of the ship following the prow to the bottom. The crew of seven men was washed overboard and all the men with the exception of the Captain swam for the rock cliff where they were dashed against the stone wall. The Captain swam out to sea, and after swimming for eight hours against the current, he was washed over the reefs and on to the beach without a scratch.

The most amazing part of the story is the strength, endurance, will-power and common sense displayed by the young Dutch sea captain, Daniel Cruz. He fought the wind, waves and current for approximately eight hours and still had strength enough to climb the mast of the "Luana" (Nancy Bourne) and stay there all day while she cruised between Mona and Monito looking for the survivors.

All we can say is that the Lord had "what-a-man" by the hand.

-- Hunter Randolph, Caribbean

- - -

"The first two carloads of news print made in the new mill of Southland Paper Mills at Lufkin, Texas, was used in printing the complete regular issue of the Dallas, Texas, News of January 30, 1940." (Quoted from PAPER MILL, February 1940)

PAGING THE FOREST SERVICE'S CLARK GABLE

Producer David Solznick was twelve months finding his Scarlett, but Motion Picture Director Carl S. Clancy of Washington I & E picked his ideal Forest Ranger in just five days - furthermore, he found him in the Rhett Butler country.

It all started when Messrs. Parkinson and Duthie, the boys behind the I & E guns in Washington, went into a huddle with Director Clancy over the selection of a star for the Forest Service's new motion picture "The Work of A Forest Ranger," scheduled to go into production immediately. They decided that the hero must be a real he-man type, a good actor with plenty of oomph to fill the bill as the typical Ranger--quite naturally they turned to the Southern Region for "such a man."

Mr. Parkinson put through a long-distance call to Regional Forester Kircher and asked the Region to submit a list of four likely subjects to be considered for the job. Whereupon the R.O. Board of Review scratched its head and pondered, checked its accident insurance, and pulled out of the hat the names of Assistant Ranger Harry Tomlinson of the Ouachita, Ranger Joe Ennis of the Chattahoochee, Ranger Vance Miles and Ranger Bill Duncan of the Cherokee.

The names, photographs and descriptions were submitted by air-mail and we held our breath and waited. Washington wired that the candidates submitted looked good and that Director Clancy already was heading South to make screen tests.

Clancy arrived in Atlanta on a Friday afternoon, spent Saturday and Sunday making screen tests and was back in Washington Monday. The "powers that be" reviewed the test shots and advised by wire that one of the candidates had been selected and should report to Washington immediately. The detail will cover a period of five months and the star, with the director and camera man, will visit all sections of the country making this feature film on the work of a Forest Ranger.

The Regional Office hastens to admit that there are plenty of good-looking he-men forest officers in the Region whose names were not submitted for consideration in this case. The matter of not being able to relieve men from their present duties eliminated some potential contestants. So if anyone feels overlooked or disappointed, he may qualify himself as an "indispensable".

So, the South takes an important part in another feature motion picture! Another favorite son of glamour is now speeding north bedecked with polished boots, several natty uniforms, and (S ssssh - Lah-de-da!) a ski outfit. Any noticeable reverberations will be Paul Bunyan turning over in his grave.

Oh, we almost forgot to say that the star of this flicker will be none other than Ranger Richard Vance Miles of the Cherokee - "Clark" to you.

-- Clint Davis, Regional Office

- - -

LAW ENFORCEMENT BY TELEGRAM

On April 14, 1939 a truck load of furniture belonging to E. B. Morse caught on fire along a state highway. In attempting to save the truck the burning furniture was thrown off along the right-of-way and started a fire on National Forest land which cost Uncle Sam \$32.00 to extinguish. Mr. Morse had insurance and when billed for the fire he turned the matter over to them for handling. The ranger, after delay in several attempts at collection, finally resorted to the following action which is explained in his memorandum.

"Will you please hold this matter open for an additional two weeks and explain the nature of the court action that you contemplate. It is necessary for me to know whether you intend to proceed criminally or civilly.

Yours very truly,
James S. Styles
U. S. Casualty Co."

The following telegram was wired Styles, same day:

"Reference letter, civil first, instituted today unless telegram payment made."

The following telegram from Styles was received, same day:

"Mailing draft and release."

-- H. B. Bosworth, Forest Supervisor, Pisgah

- - -

TEXAS TELLS THE WORLD

Texas National Forests received nation-wide attention in the Special Forest & Industry Edition of the Lufkin Daily News. This issue of the paper was published January 14 in connection with the opening of the Southland Paper Company's newsprint plant at Lufkin and was distributed in all of the forty-eight States.

An entire section of the paper was devoted to forestry activities of the state and federal governments. The photographic layout and the excellent front page features of this section showed thoughtful planning on the part of Supervisor Prater and Ranger Jared. Newspaper cooperation of this type is of incalculable benefit to the Service and is well worth the thought and extra work back of it.

ANOTHER REASON FOR SUMMER HOME SITES

In these days of trials and tribulations, of strife and bitterness between races and creeds, the simple and peaceful ways of American life are good to contemplate. Reflecting on these things, brings to our mind a Sunday in August last year when on the spur of the moment two members of the Summer Home Colony at Lake Winfield Scott went from cabin to cabin, from tent to tent, and from picnic area to picnic area, rounding up the group for a church service out under the trees near the big shelter.

At the appointed hour 55 people were assembled. Hymns were sung, the Bible was read, and there was a short sermon by Rev. Zachary Hayes. Seven creeds were represented--Methodist, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Episcopalian, Baptist, Presbyterian and Lutheran. These people joined in a simple but beautiful service. All of the Summer Home community gathered with the campers and picnickers, and this meeting fostered a community spirit.

Since this service four more lots have been leased--others have become part of this group. Now the idea is gaining to build a simple community house near the center of the Summer Home colony, where all can get together for the betterment of the whole area, where common problems and plans can be discussed, and where families and friends can meet for simple entertainment or religious worship.

It seems to us that out of this service on August 20, 1939 has come another phase of forest-use where the family as a unit can play and worship together in God's great out-of-doors. What greater use can be added to our forests?

-- W. H. Fischer, Forest Supervisor, Chattahoochee

- - -

BETTER PRIVATE PRACTICES AND PRICES

Recently a South Carolina timber owner was approached by a pulpwood buyer regarding his stand of small-sized longleaf. The owner asked for time to think it over and spent a day on a Forest Service sale on the Francis Marion, where turpentine longleaf is being salvaged.

He contacted the ranger and read a sample Forest Service contract. In consequence, the sale was made under a contract calling for low stumps, the removal of only turpentine trees, and measurement on the basis of 128 cubic feet per cord. Further, the price he is receiving is \$1.00 per cord.

-- Norman R. Hawley, Assistant Forester,
South Carolina

A GOOD CONSERVATIONIST

The Stock Room reports that Herbert Knoch, Division of Operation, turned in a few days ago an ordinary 10¢ store variety scripto pencil, its glittering polish attesting to long and constant use. Mr. Knoch modestly inquired if he might have a new pencil to replace this old one, which he had been using for five years. Some one suggested that Mr. Knoch be given not only the new pencil but a medal of some sort for setting up such a record.

STOP PRESS FLASH:

To make the story of this pencil more impressive, we learn as we go to press that at one time during its long and arduous career, it dropped from Mr. Knoch's pocket and landed on the back of a giant ray fish reposing under about five or six feet of water in Tampa Bay. The patient and persistent owner of this famous pencil made noises to frighten away the ray, the pencil rolled off onto the white sand and was retrieved through the ingenuity of our hero who manipulated a split-stick with one hand and fought off the ray with the other. This pencil will be sent to the Scripto Company with the suggestion that it be forwarded to the Smithsonian Institute.

- - -

A BEST SELLER

SOUTHERN PINES PAY seems to merit distinction as a best seller. In the short time since its release, this Region has distributed more than 3,000 copies upon individual requests.

In response to a region-wide news release, requests have been received not only from practically every State in the Region but from Massachusetts, Montana, Michigan, Kansas, New York and Kentucky. The demand is from schools and colleges, chambers of commerce, farmers and other interested individuals. The newspapers not only gave our item good news coverage, but it also was the subject of much favorable editorial comment.

Vocational Education Supervisor Mobley of Georgia requested copies for each of the 300 vocational education teachers in the State. He says also that his department is purchasing four copies of the film "Pine Ways to Profit." The Georgia Department of Education obviously is being sold on conservation education.

- - -

FOX HUNTING AND FIRE PREVENTION

The Thirteenth Annual Hunt of the East Texas Fox Hunters Association was held at Boles Field Recreational Area on December 11 through 14. This was the third successive year in which the fox hunters have chosen Boles Field as the site of their annual

hunt and the third successive year in which almost all of the hunters in attendance have been thoroughly pleased with this Forest Service recreational area.

Over eight thousand visitors used the Boles Field recreational area over the four-day period of the hunt. The hunters and their friends were accompanied by some 1,063 dogs which, together with the large number of horses brought in by hunters who take their fox hunting seriously, crowded the recreational area to capacity and overflowed into surrounding woodlands. Dogs were entered in the hunt from most of the southwestern states, while one hunter and his eight hounds came from Hensdale, Mass.

Over the three year period, the Forest Service has constructed 52 inexpensive dog kennels, as well as a number of horse corrals. Aside from these rather inexpensive items and the contribution of some time in supervising this concentrated use, these annual fox hunts have called for no expenditure of Forest Service funds. At present the Board of Directors of the Association have under consideration a motion to make Boles Field the permanent meeting place for the annual hunt. If this step is taken, it is planned to construct additional inexpensive facilities for the use of hunters and their dogs and saddlestock.

One feature of the four-day hunt was a daily fire prevention warning given by the Master of Hounds over the public address system. The Master of Hounds was evidently the Master of Fires also, for no fires occurred in the vicinity of Boles Field during the four-day hunt. This fact made the hunt about as much of a success for the Forest Service as it was for the many fox hunters in attendance. A very real appreciation of the Forest Service roads and recreational improvements available for the use of the public was shown by fox hunters and visitors.

-- Martin Syverson, District Forest Ranger,
Texas.

- - -

GRADUATE WORK

Duke University, School of Forestry, has a number of scholarships and fellowships available to qualified graduate students. The annual stipend of these scholarships ranges from two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750); the amount awarded to each successful applicant will vary with his qualifications.

Applications should be submitted on or before March 1 if they are to be considered in making awards for the following academic year. Information concerning these opportunities may be secured by writing to Dean of the School of Forestry, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

THE FAMILY ALBUM
GREGARIOUS GUY

The acme of genial sociability probably is Guy Wilkinson, District Ranger of the "wild and wooly" Kiamichi District, the Oklahoma Division of the Ouachita, where hiding big-shot bandits are on the wane and big-time artificial recreation lakes are in the making.

Wherever you may be working on the Kiamichi, Ranger Wilkinson will before long put in his smiling appearance and show an interest in your project. That will lead you to believe he has no other immediate tasks or cares to beguile him. He spends his days "visiting" on the district. But don't be fooled; he rises betimes of a morning and stews at his Heavener, Oklahoma, office smashing out his memos and reports for the day. While the fumes of cogitation clear and the memos cool during the forenoon, he kills the day making his rounds, following report, rumor or his trouble nose to the spot where his placating or stimulating talents are most needed. He ministers regularly to his trusty lieutenants, the two Charleys--Cook, Superintendent of Happ Camp, and Lambert, Superintendent of Construction of the Cedar Lake Dam.

Toward evening he heads for the office to reread the by now becalmed memos before signing and dispatching them in the evening mail. Comes evening he either stretches on his front porch, toasts before his living room hearth, goes to a forest fire, or deploys to Happ for a game of chinese checkers. Guy has one weakness, - he musn't get lonesome.

His latest pet project is the new "suburban" ranger station under construction on a hill top just outside Heavener. He watches this job prayerfully yet gloatingly, keeping foreman Harp and the stocial, inscrutable CCC crew steamed up with the slogan "Beat Waldron!" (Remember the handsome station Ranger Griswold built on the Cold Springs?) Well, Guy vows his will be better, but we just don't know. Don't brag too loudly, Guy. "They" might transfer you, too, if you feather yourself too cozy a nest!

-- Chigger Pete

- - -

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Robert D. Goedert, Assistant Engineering Aid, has been transferred from the Federal Works Agency to the office of the Chattahoochee Supervisor, where he is engaged in acquisition activities.

Paul R. Warren recently resigned his position as Minor Assistant to Technician on the Sabine Ranger District of the Texas to accept an appointment with the Soil Conservation Service.

Jr. Forester Frederick S. Harris was transferred on February 1 from the Ouachita Supervisor's office to the Florida, where he will continue to be engaged in fire control activities.

Robert H. Hoff was probationally appointed on January 2 as Under Assistant to Technician on the Nantahala Ranger District on the Nantahala.

Miss Rebeca Cato has been transferred from the Chattahoochee to the Ouachita, where she will continue to serve as Head of the Miscellaneous Section. She is succeeded on the Chattahoochee by Mrs. Lena G. Loflin from the Regional Office.

Resignation has been accepted from Mrs. Annie Lee Caudle, telephone operator on the Bayou Ranger District of the Ozark.

J. Robert Smith, Jr., Inspector of Accounts in the Division of Fiscal Control in the Regional Office, has been transferred to the Division of Fiscal Control in the Chief's Office.

Resignation has been accepted from Jr. Forester Charles R. Ross on the Chattahoochee Supervisor's staff to accept a position with the Extension Service at Clemson College.

On January 16 Asst. Forester Harold B. Donaldson was transferred from the Ouachita Supervisor's office to the Regional Division of State and Private Forestry and has been assigned to the State of Mississippi; his headquarters are with the State Forester at Jackson.

Ralph A. Shull, Principal Clerk in the office of the Caribbean Supervisor, has been transferred to the Tropical Forest Experiment Station at Rio Piedras.

On February 1 Jr. Forester Walter L. Lane was transferred from the Angelina Ranger District of the Texas to the Jacksonville District of the Naval Stores Conservation Program, his official station being Waycross, Georgia.

Minor Asst. to Technician Robert L. Hurd has been transferred from the Arkansas State to the Bayou Ranger District of the Ozark.

The following intra-unit changes have been effected:

Chattahoochee - Asst. to Technician E. Lake Rogers and Scientific Aid Parker B. Smith from the Tallulah Ranger District to the Supervisor's office.

Mississippi - Asst. to Technician Herbert P. Rice from the Delta Purchase Unit to the Leaf River District.

Texas - Minor Asst. to Technician Arthur L. Burton from the Crockett to the Angelina Ranger District.

HISTORICAL STUDIES

The Forest Service is cooperating with the History of Forestry Committee of the Society of American Foresters in a project aimed at gathering and preserving source material for the history of forestry in the United States. In connection with that project, Governor Pinchot, who is a member of the committee, is sending personal letters to all present and former members of the Forest Service who served under him, asking them to write out and turn over to him an account of their work and experiences, especially during the period while he was Forester.

The Forest Service hopes that those asked to do this will write freely of their individual doings and viewpoints. The historical value of the narratives will depend largely on the extent to which they are personal, frank, and specific. Those who write, however, will do so voluntarily and whatever they choose to write will not be subject to any sort of official review or scrutiny or to deposit in any official record. The narratives will be sent directly to Governor Pinchot, who will eventually deliver them, along with his own personal papers, to the Library of Congress for permanent preservation.

-- W.O. Information Digest

- - -

COLONEL GRAVES TO STUDY PROBLEMS OF FORESTRY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH IN SOUTH

Announcement has been made that Henry S. Graves, Dean Emeritus of the Yale School of Forestry, has accepted an assignment from the General Education Board of New York, to make an extended investigation of the problems of education and research in forestry in the southern States. The purpose is to study present educational and research activities by different agencies, in order to determine possible measures for their further development and improvement. The study will by no means be confined to activities of colleges and universities but will include possible contributions by schools of all levels and extra-school agencies. Mr. Graves will be assisted by Mr. Hillis L. Howie of Indianapolis, who is completing his work for the Ph.D. degree in the Yale School of Graduate Studies. (Yale University News Statement)

-- W.O. Information Digest

- - -

The studies being conducted by Dr. Shea have kept him in the "darkest heart of the Region" for the past few months until he is almost a stranger in the Regional Office. We heard him greeted thusly when he paid us a flying visit last week: "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher attended the meeting of the American Forestry Association at Biloxi, Mississippi, February 1-3.

Sanasdi Mahaphol of the Siam Forest Service recently spent two days in the Regional Office becoming acquainted with the U. S. Forest Service organization, and Arthur Benan, Director of the Tropical Forest Experiment Station, also stopped over for a day in the Regional Office enroute to Puerto Rico.

Visitors from the Washington Office were: Messrs. Kramer, Morrell, Richardson, E.T. and Glenn Wolf, Cousins, Pratt, Crawford, Ward and Jay. Others from Washington were Mr. John W. Martindale, Asst. Consultant on Child Labor, U. S. Department of Labor; Mr. C. F. Speh, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils; Mr. A. R. Spillers, S & PF, R-7.

Among other visitors to the Region during the past month were: Director E. L. Demmon, Messrs. Ineson and Eldredge, from the Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans; Director R. E. McArdle, Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, Asheville; Forest Supervisors Nelson, Prater, Riebold, Fischer, Bryan, Conarro, Albert and Gerrard; Asst. Forest Supervisors Busch, Whipple, Bennett, McKinley, Reading and Leavitt; State Foresters F. H. Lang, Little Rock, Ark.; Fred Merrill, Jackson, Miss.; Brooks Toler, Montgomery, Ala.; H. A. Smith, Columbia, S.C.; H. B. Donaldson, Ouachita; L. E. Staley, Florida; C. A. Gillett, Industrial Forester, Seaboard Air Line Railway, Norfolk; Frank Heyward, Jr., Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association; B. Koontz, Texas Forest Service; W. L. Lear, Arkansas State Forestry Commission; B. M. Lufburrow, Southern Pine Association, New Orleans; Earl Porter, Southern Kraft Corp., Cullendale, Ark.; C. F. Speh, Jr., Jacksonville.

Mr. E. J. Schlatter, Division of State and Private, was married on February 1 to Miss Julia Frances Wicks of Atlanta. The Region's "best of luck" wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Schlatter.

- - -

MORE ABOUT HISTORICAL DATA

A Regional Office staff member recently inquired of us the meaning of the word "Kisatchie". He said that a short time ago he had spent a week on the Kisatchie National Forest; that in all the CCC camps and all Ranger districts the question had been asked and no one could tell him. The I & E source file on the Kisatchie was of no help. We appealed to the Carnegie Library in Atlanta and was informed that according to the book "Louisiana Place Names of Indian Origin" the word is derived from Choctaw words meaning "river reeds" or brake growing along the banks of the river. The

"Kisa" part is from the same derivation as "Kusa", "Coosa" and "Cusha" and referred originally to eastern Choctaw settlements along the banks of Coosa Creek.

All of which reminds us of our so far fruitless efforts to induce the Forests to collect and send in for Regional Office records all available historical background. (The years we waste, and the tears we waste!!!)

- - -

FORESTRY IS MORE THAN TREES

Before winter set in on the Blue Ridge District, a Mr. Jones edged into our office. He was a ragged, mousy, under-nourished shadow of a man, apologetic about taking up the time of the Ranger and in his inquiry about buying a small chestnut acidwood boundary.

Except for his eager eyes, he was the personification of a beaten hound dog, starved to hide and bones. But beneath his unprepossessing exterior lay a smouldering spark of fire, a will to keep on fighting. He argued with some spirit and got his sale and within the week started cutting.

His progress was watched with interest. Within six weeks he had demonstrated that he was the best operator on the district. On a current inspection of the sale area, I inquired as to where I could find Mr. Jones. It happened that I was talking to Mr. Jones, but not the same one who had been in my office two months before. He wore the same clothes, but here in place of a beaten derelict, I found a self respecting, strong and different man. One who by hard work and good management had wrested more than existence from the forest. I like to think that the Forest Service was of some assistance in helping a man find himself.

-- George Schaeffer, Assistant Ranger,
Chattahoochee

- - -

WHAT THE EXAM DISCLOSES:

"A trench," declared a candidate for a patrolman's job in the Forest Service, "is a tunnel dug in the ground with the top side open."

"To hitch up a team of horses the heads should be in the same direction."

"A fire line is a long line of rubber hose."

-- Daily Contact, R-9

* * *

DOES TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING PAY?

During the first six months of the calendar year 1938, there were 175 motor vehicle accidents reported to this office which involved trucks driven by CCC enrollees. For the same period of the calendar year 1939, there were only 98 such accidents reported to the Regional Office. This figure is exactly a 44% reduction in truck accident frequency, yet at the same time there was a corresponding reduction in CCC camps reporting to this office of less than 5%.

The first steps were taken to institute a region-wide selection and training course for enrollee drivers in September, 1938, when a group of representatives from each of the National Forests in the Region, with the exception of the Caribbean, were gathered at Wilson Dam, Alabama, to formulate policies and work out a training course for enrollee drivers. These men returned to their respective forests and during the next three months instituted such a program of selection and training of enrollee drivers as was agreed upon at the Wilson Dam conference. Since November, 1938, there has been a steady decrease in the number of truck accidents reported to this office.

For the calendar year 1938 there were 331 truck accidents by enrollees reported to this office. For the calendar year 1939 there were only 204 such accidents reported. This shows a decrease of 38.3% in the number of accidents reported, while at the same time the total number of camps reporting to this office was reduced slightly over 5%. Let's put it another way, - during 1938 there was an average of 27.5 accidents reported each month. During 1939 there was an average of 17 such accidents reported each month, a net decrease of 10.5 accidents reported each month.

Truck driver training foremen in CCC camps of the Region are due the credit for this reduction, and it is expected that as more experience is gained by these men in teaching and selecting enrollee drivers, further decrease will be made.

Not all of this record can be attributed to selection and training of truck drivers alone for a lot of it can be attributed to closer and better supervision of drivers and the use of trucks, and to better organization of transportation; however, these things can be attributed indirectly to training and to the attention given to drivers as a result of the training program.

There is no available method of measuring the benefits gained through savings in equipment repairs and the public's good will as a result of this program, but from the comments of various people who should know, these benefits have been considerable.

The question then, "Does truck driver training pay?", can readily be answered by the statement that it is now paying. Just how much it is paying in dollars and cents is an estimate that would be difficult to make, but when the time of a foreman and enrollees is pitted against the cost of repairing damaged vehicles, paying claims, the loss of public good will, the loss of use of equipment, cost of time spent by administrative officers in investigations, and a multitude of other expenses, we all must agree that the truck driver training program is very much in the black.

-- M. W. May, Jr., Training Officer,
Regional Office.

* * *

